

**Workshop for Development of Backward areas of Uttara Khand**

2940. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a workshop of Scientists and Technologists, including experts in Information Technology, was held from April 21 to 23, 2000, to evolve an action plan for accelerated development of backward areas of Uttarakhand;

(b) whether any strategy to attract Foreign Direct Investment in the region and connecting the region with high band internet were evolved; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a strategy to provide for full employment by 2020 was also evolved; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken and being taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Sir, a Workshop on the "Role of Science and Technology in the Integrated Development of Uttarakhand" was held during April 21-23, 2000 at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora. Several experts and representatives of various Central and State agencies participated in the Workshop. The Workshop covered four themes, namely, (i) Georesources, (ii) Bioresources, (iii) Infrastructure and Technological Interventions and (iv) Socio-economic Aspects. As a follow-up, the Department of Science and Technology has recently set up a Steering Committee to evolve a Mission Mode Project based on the recommendations of the said Workshop and suggest ways and means for inter-sectoral coordination and resource mobilisation. It may be mentioned here that no specific proposals have been evolved on the foreign direct investment and full employment generation by 2020.

**Trials on Genetically Modified Crops**

2941. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: